

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEWS RELEASE: 45th District lawmakers, community residents get Carnation
dropped from list of proposed sex-predator housing sites**

Carnation residents can breathe easier today after their three state legislators teamed with local leaders to defeat a proposal to house sex predators in their area. The Department of Social and Health Services withdrew Carnation from a list of proposed sites late Tuesday after it was shown that the location was across from an established Riverview School District bus stop.

"I'm glad DSHS recognized that their proposed location was a bad fit for the Carnation community," said Sen. Bill Finkbeiner, R-Carnation. "But at the same time, I encourage King County leaders to step up and work to find a suitable location for this needed facility."

Carnation is in the 45th Legislative District. Since the DSHS announcement last month that the community was one of three candidates to become home to what is called a "Secure Community Transition Facility," the district's three legislators – Rep. Toby Nixon, Rep. Laura Ruderman and Finkbeiner – have been working with local residents, who formed the Sno-Valley Community Action Team. Together they came up with enough reasons to change DSHS' mind.

"Sex offenders don't belong near our schools or where children catch the bus," said Ruderman, D-Kirkland. "I'm glad we could work with the state to correct this error and protect the people of our district. This is a good example of how democracy is supposed to work -- lawmakers and the community each did their part and together we fixed the problem."

"I'm very, very happy the people of Carnation came together the way they did to collect and organize the information needed to convince DSHS to remove their community from the list of proposed sites," said Nixon, R-Kirkland. "The public input process defined in the SCTF legislation was designed to uncover information like this, and the process worked."

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